



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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For Information Contact Public Affairs
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WHITE MOUNTAIN LAKE, AZ. MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DEFRAUDING SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAMS

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, and the Office of the Inspector General/Social Security Administration, announced today that on February 12, 2002, **GERALD CURTIS DELGER**, age 65, a resident of White Mountain Lake, Arizona, entered a plea of guilty to a one-count Criminal Indictment for defrauding Social Security programs of \$46,841.53. The Criminal Indictment, resulting from an investigation conducted by Special Agents from the Phoenix office of the Social Security Administration/Office of Inspector General, charged Social Security Fraud and Number Misuse, Identity Theft, Making False Statements on Government Forms, and Theft of Government Property.

According to his plea, **DELGER** assumed the identity of a former acquaintance and used his name, social security number, and other personal information to file for Social Security disability benefits. As part of his fraud, **DELGER** secured a replacement Social Security Card, Birth Certificate, and Arizona Driver's License, and opened bank accounts in the assumed name. **DELGER** used the assumed identity to apply for and receive Social Security disability benefits payments from July 1990 through July 1998. Sentencing before United States District Judge Roslyn O. Silver is

scheduled for April 22, 2002. DELGER faces a maximum penalty of imprisonment for not more than ten years or a fine of \$250,000.00, or both.

The investigation that led to the indictment and guilty plea was conducted by Agents from the Phoenix office of the Social Security Administration/Office of Inspector General, and is the result of a joint effort between the Department of Justice, United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, and the Social Security Administration/Office of the Inspector General, to identify and prosecute fraud against Social Security benefit programs.

This case was handled by John K. Webb, Special Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR 01-998-PHX-ROS

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